



2026 Budget investments

A safe, clean ride every day

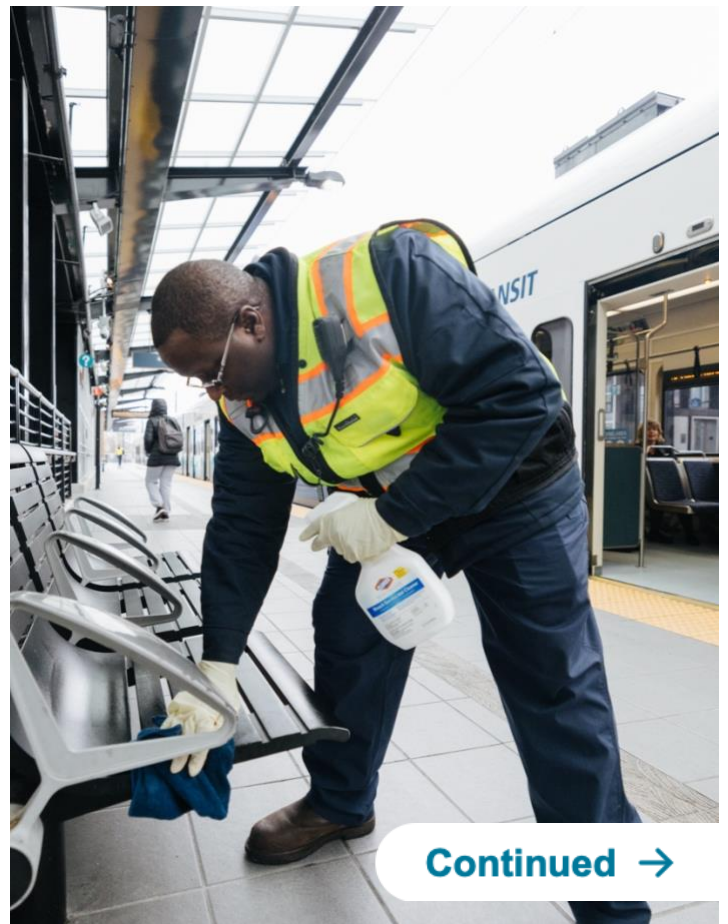
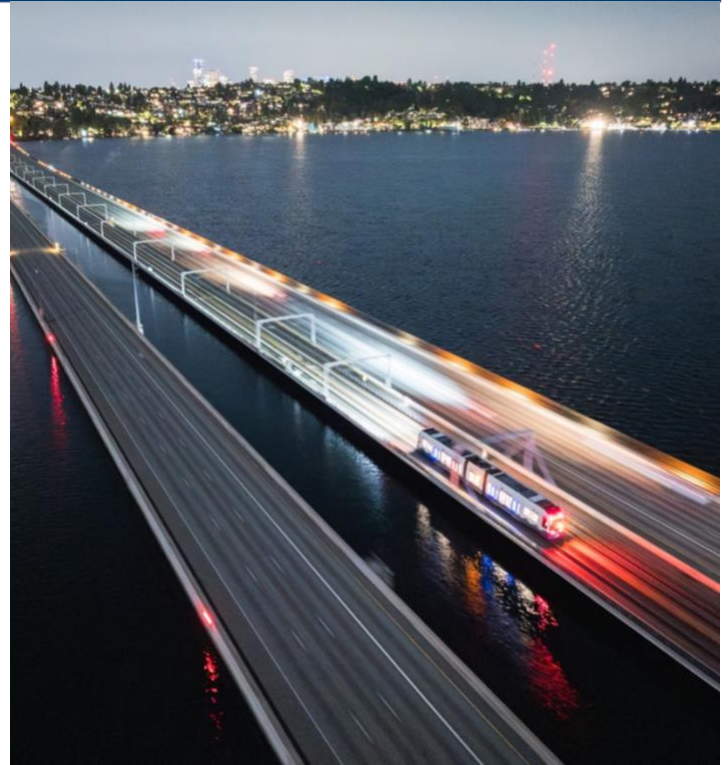
Our passengers are our priority, and they deserve a great experience onboard and at our stops and stations. Increased investments in **security staffing, vehicle and facilities maintenance, and system safety** will include:

- An additional \$19M in modal operations for security, including nine new Field Activity Specialist Team (FAST) positions; increasing King County Sheriff's Office hiring by up to 33% with new positions, and in-house Security Operations Center implementation.
- \$19.5M in safety capital projects like automatic pedestrian gates via the at-grade crossing program; OMF security enhancement; and anti-climb, anti-cut Lakewood subdivision fencing.
- Funding for lighting upgrades at downtown Seattle stations, bird deterrent systems, new seat inserts for 32 Link vehicles, and more.
- Improving the Redefine Clean program, which now includes dedicated staff at some high-traffic stations, two shifts per day.

Expanding service

As more light rail projects open for passengers in 2026, Sound Transit's **regionwide Link service will grow to 63 miles, and our total service hours will grow by 29%**. The 2026 modal operating budget (\$891M) includes:

- Link, Sounder, and ST Express operating costs, including our first full year of 1 Line service to Federal Way and 2 Line service to Downtown Redmond.
- New Link service opening in 2026: Crosslake Connection and Pinehurst Station.
- Doubling 1 Line frequency to 4-minute headways.



Continued →

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Future-proofing the regional light rail system

An **additional \$155M** in system and service investments above and beyond our safety and security enhancements will help keep our Link vehicles in a **state of good repair**, improve **service reliability** for passengers, and support critical efforts to increase **systemwide resiliency**.

These investments include:

- Upgrades to traction power, signals, Digital Passenger Information System (PIMS) and other Link systems, plus additional KC Rail staff to support operational response.
- Modernizing aging assets in Seattle's downtown tunnel.
- Improvements in underlying systems infrastructure: New software procurements for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and Enterprise Asset Management (EAMs), and continuing Project Management Information Systems (PMIS) implementation.
- Seed funding to scope potential future innovations like a faregate pilot study, technology solutions for a Unified Control Center, and accessible routing through stations.

World-class service for FIFA World Cup

As we prepare to welcome visitors from around the world to the Puget Sound region this summer, Sound Transit's 2026 budget includes major investments in:

- Capital projects like elevator/escalator improvements at International District/Chinatown Station and SeaTac/Airport Station's second elevator.
- Additional security staff and consultant/staffing resources to manage crowding.
- Supplemental bus bridge service.

